Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan

A Blueprint for Success

“One State’s Approach”
Why?

- Mandated by SAFETEA-LU
- By FY2007 Statewide Coordination Plans must exist and be in effect to be eligible for the following funds
  - Sec 5310 (elderly and disabled)
  - Sec 5316 (Job Access & Reverse Commute - JARC)
  - Sec 5317 (New Freedoms)
Who?

- ALDOT is proponent agency
- AARC was contracted by ALDOT to coordinate the activity and develop the plan
- Each of the 12 Regions provided staff and expertise to actually accomplish the task
- Undertaken predominantly for “sub-recipient” agencies
- Transit systems were subsumed as part of county efforts
- MPOs were a subset of the process
AARC

1. Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments
2. West Alabama Regional Commission
3. Birmingham RPC
4. East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
5. South Central Alabama Development Commission
6. Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission
7. Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
8. South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
9. Central Alabama Regional Planning Development Commission
10. Lee-Russell Council of Governments
11. North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments
12. Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
How?

- Within each region (includes all counties, urban areas and MPOs)
  - Meet with affected and interested parties (Stakeholders) and identify that which is both good and bad
  - Identify common origins and destinations
  - Inventory available assets
  - Identify unmet transportation needs
  - Identify shortfalls and gaps in service
  - Identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination
  - Develop a strategy to optimize these opportunities
  - Develop Transportation Alternatives
  - Publish 12 separate regional plans to bring this about
Keys to Success

- Involve all players early and often
- Do not “over plan”
- Clearly identify planning objectives and do not allow the process to stray
- Identify format and products early
- Use MPO expertise to “assist” in the development of the plan
Key elements

- Identify “clusters of need”
- Identify common destinations
- Identify existing service (and gaps of service)
- Don’t “overplan”
- Be blunt – tell the truth
- Identify the areas that can’t be fixed locally
- Identify necessary resources to fix local issues
Initial Findings

- $$$$$$ are the crux of the matter
  - Local match (“There ain’t none!”)
  - State funding (ditto)
  - Medicaid reimbursement
- Limitations are caused by absence of resources, not unwillingness to coordinate
- Framework exists for enhanced coordination and service
- Most transit providers have good to excellent relations with local agencies
- Transit providers are challenged by perception and unrealistic expectation
  - High expectations for little cost
  - Social service vs. Infrastructure
  - Them vs. Us
Data for Consideration

- Alabama is a leading state in the incidence of diabetes
  - Renal failure (dialysis)
  - Bilateral amputation
  - Diabetic Retinopathy
- 2d most obese state (related health issues)
- WWII, Korean War, Viet Nam, Cold War, Persian Gulf, Iraqi Freedom veterans require access to VA facilities (demand increasing)
- 5% of households in Alabama do not have access to a vehicle (13% if 65+)
Data for Consideration (cont.)

- Senior population is growing rapidly (do we really want them driving?)
  - 13% of the current population is 65+
  - 21% of the 2030 population projected to be 65+
  - By 2030 the 65+ population will increase by 72+%  
  - By 2030 the 85+ population will increase by 94+%  
- 22% of the population over 40 have significant vision problems (442,459) (4% are blind)  
- 2.5% of the population over 18 have Diabetic Retinopathy (85,752)  
- 2% of the population over 50 have Macular Degeneration (25,476)
The Final Result

- 12 specific and unique regional plans that will:
  - Address local dynamics
  - Be attentive to local needs
  - Offer realistic and prioritized options for implementation

- A strong basis for a “statewide” plan that is sensitive to the needs of the regions of the state